

BIKE TO WORK DAY

May 18
TP Convoy, 7 a.m.
at the Gazebo
waba.org/events/
btwd

Takoma Park NEWSLETTER

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,
committed citizens can change the world. . ."
Margaret Mead (1901-1978)

HEALTH SERVICES/ HOSPITAL COMMUNITY MEETING

May 1, 7-9 p.m.
Council Chambers

Published by the City of Takoma Park

www.takomaparkmd.gov

MAY 2007



BICYCLE PATROL RIDES AGAIN

Starting mid-May, Takoma Park Police officers will mount their bikes and resume bicycle patrol in the city. To get ready, PFC Christopher Eckford, Det./Cpl. Rick Cannatella and Pvt. Keith Hubley (left to right) are among about 15 officers to train for three days, pedaling 30 to 40 miles a day and mastering maneuvers like riding down stairs and firing during dismounts. "[Bicycle patrol] puts officers closer to the community," says Chief Ron Ricucci, who championed the program as soon as he joined the force in February. "They can go where cars can't go. They're preventive – people see them and realize [officers] are out there . . . It's another tool in the fight against crime."

Photo credit: Andrew John

Hospital Headed for White Oak

*Health Care May Continue at
Takoma Park Site*

For years, the neighborhood surrounding Washington Adventist Hospital struggled to address the traffic and other challenges brought on by a large health care facility in a largely residential area. That struggle shifted dramatically when the hospital announced, in 2005, that it would move its main campus in order to accommodate plans for expansion. Many held onto the hope that WAH would change its mind and continue to serve the immediate community, right in its backyard.

But on April 17 Adventist HealthCare announced that Washington Adventist will relocate to White Oak. AHC has purchased a 48-acre parcel of land off Plum Orchard Drive and Cherry Hill Road, near Route 29 and the Beltway.

"The current campus is too congested, difficult to access and unable to provide physicians and nurses with the offices and facilities they need," the hospital stated in a press release. "The narrow, two-lane roads make the hospital difficult to reach. The new site will include a state-of-the-art hospital along with supporting physician offices, medical service buildings and room for parking. The new hospital will also improve the region's capacity to handle major medical emergencies and other public health-care crises."

HOSPITAL MOVE
continues on page 12

Tax Rate Could Dip Two Cents

Budget Streamlines Personnel; Targets Streetscapes, Commercial Centers and Safety

BY VIRGINIA MYERS

City Manager Barbara Matthews presented her budget proposal to City Council on April 9, emphasizing maintenance of city infrastructure and equipment and proposing various development projects that will spruce up city parks, streetscapes and commercial areas. Funding for the design of a new Public Works building is also included. Matthews' budget reflects a two-cent dip in the property tax rate.

In early 2006, the City Council agreed on a two-year plan to guide staff's activities. These priorities include the preservation of affordable housing, completion of the Community Center, promotion of appropriate development, redevelopment of the New Hampshire corridor, and fairer tax duplication payments from the county.

"In developing my budget, I kept in mind what City Council members—and by extension, City residents—have indicated are their priorities," says Matthews. "My proposal includes the financial and staffing resources required to move these priorities forward. Maintaining the City's strong financial condition was also a key consideration."

Noticeably missing from Matthews' budget is the Community Center Fund. Mat-

"Many property owners have expressed concern about the impact of ever-increasing property values. Lowering the tax rate is one way for the City to try and help them out."

— City Manager Barbara Matthews

BUDGET HEARING

Monday, May 7
7:30 p.m. Council Chambers
Takoma Park Community Center

thews explains that the state rejected a request for funding for the gymnasium, which would have been the last phase of the community center, and that the City Council has not decided to move forward with construction of a gymnasium. At the time she submitted her budget, the only project related to the community center for FY08 is internal signage, which will be funded through capital outlay in the general fund.

Matthews' budget proposes \$20.54 million in total expenditures, with \$19.13 in total revenues; the difference would be made up by reserve funds accumulated due to higher than expected revenues and expenditures coming in under budget, monies set aside for equipment replacement, and cable grant funds received in prior years.

Tax rate break

The good news for residents is the possibility of a slight tax break for property own-

ers who have been struggling with increasing tax bills. Matthews' proposal knocks off two cents per \$100 of assessed property value, and would bring the tax rate from .63 cents per \$100 to .61 cents per \$100. Because property values rose again last year, revenues from property tax would still go up by about \$807,000, even with the rate decrease.

"Many property owners have expressed concern about the impact of ever-increasing property values," says Matthews. "Lowering the tax rate is one way for the City to try and help them out."

For some property owners, the state homestead property tax credit offers some tax relief. It limits the increase in taxable assessments to 10 percent --in other words, property value may increase more than 10 percent, but property owners will not be taxed on more than a 10 percent increase.

The city relies on property, income, and other taxes as its primary source of revenue, accounting for 63.2 percent of the budget; the next largest source is intergovernmental revenue, at 27.6 percent. This includes tax duplication payments meant to compensate the city for taxes paid to the county for ser-

CITY BUDGET
continues on page 12

INSIDE:

Lobbying for Takoma Park

Page 3

Financial Award

Page 4

Sligo Master Plan

Page 5

PRE-SORT STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TAKOMA PARK, MD
PERMIT NO. 4422

Mayor & Council
7500 Maple Ave.
Takoma Park, MD 20912

ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CALENDAR*

Tuesday, May 1 - Health Services Impact Committee Community Meeting, 7 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Tuesday, May 1 - Meeting of the Council Compensation Committee, 7 p.m. (Community Center Atrium Room)

Thursday, May 3 - Meeting of the Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee, 6 p.m. (Community Center Rose Room)

Saturday, May 5 - Ward 4 City Council Walking Meeting

Monday, May 7 - Public Hearing, Special Session and Budget Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium) Public Hearings: Constant Yield Tax Rate and Proposed FY '08 Budget

Tuesday, May 8 - Meeting of the Facade Advisory Board, 7 p.m. (Community Center Hydrangea Room)

Tuesday, May 8 - Meeting of the Tree Commission, 6:30 p.m. (Community Center Atrium Room)

Tuesday, May 8 - Meeting of the Committee on the Environment, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Forsythia Room)

Tuesday, May 8 - (Tentative) Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs Hearing, 7 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Thursday, May 10 - Budget Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Monday, May 14 - Regular Meeting and Budget Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Tuesday, May 15 - Meeting of the Safe Roadways Committee, 7 p.m. (Community Center Hydrangea Room)

Wednesday, May 16 - Committee and Staff Training - Maryland Open Meetings Act

Thursday, May 17 - Budget Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 pm. (Community Center Auditorium)

Monday, May 21 - Budget Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Tuesday, May 22 - Meeting of the Arts and Humanities Commission, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Hydrangea Room)

Tuesday, May 22 - (tentative) Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs Hearing, 7 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Wednesday, May 23 - Meeting of the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m. (Community Center Atrium Room)

Thursday, May 24 - (tentative) Budget Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Monday, May 28 - City Holiday (Memorial Day). City offices will be closed.

Tuesday, May 29 - Regular Meeting and Worksession of the City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Thursday, May 31 - Meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Committee, 8:30 a.m. (Community Center Atrium Room)

City Council Action

For further information, or to receive a copy of the legislation, contact the City Clerk's office, 301-891-7267 or e-mail clerk@takomagov.org.

March 19 - Special Session

Resolution 2007-1 was adopted, ratifying the Collective Bargaining Agreement with AFSCME Local 3399 (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Clay, Seamens, Snipper, Williams; ABSENT: Barry).

First Reading Ordinance 2007-13 was accepted at first reading, authorizing the FY07 AFSCME Pay Plan (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Clay, Seamens, Snipper, Williams; ABSENT: Barry).

Single Reading Ordinance 2007-14 was adopted by roll-call vote, authorizing the purchase of a fuel management system (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Clay, Seamens, Snipper, Williams; ABSENT: Barry).

Second Reading Ordinance 2007-8 was adopted by roll-call vote, amending Chapter 6.28.010 of the Takoma Park Code to expand notification requirements for contracts for sale of a rental facility (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Clay, Seamens, Snipper, Williams; ABSENT: Barry).

March 26 - Regular Meeting

Resolution 2007-2 was adopted, recognizing Arbor Day (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Seamens, Snipper, Williams).

Resolution 2007-3 was adopted, authorizing the Mayor to sign the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement (VOTING

FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Seamens, Snipper, Williams).

Second Reading Ordinance 2007-13 was adopted, authorizing the FY07 AFSCME Pay Plan (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Seamens, Snipper, Williams).

Resolution 2007-4 was adopted, appointing Tebabu Assefa, Diane L. Robinson-Berkley, Steve Shapiro, Roberta Valente, Alicia Powers, Sean Tipton, John Verdi, and Deborah Zuckerman to the 2007 Council Compensation Committee. (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Seamens, Snipper, Williams).

April 9 - Special Session

Resolution 2007-5 was adopted, Proclaiming Monday, April 16, 2007 as "District of Columbia Full Emancipation Day." (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Seamens, Snipper, Williams).

Single Reading Ordinance 2007-15 was adopted, authorizing purchase of replacement vehicle (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Seamens, Snipper, Williams).

Ordinance 2007-16 was accepted at first reading, authorizing FY07 Budget Amendment No. 3 (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Clay, Seamens, Snipper, Williams).

Vacancies on Council-appointed Boards and Committees

If you would like to get involved in Takoma Park government, there is probably a committee that suits your interest. You may print the application form from the City's web page at: <http://www.takomaporkmd.gov/committees/comapp.pdf>

Arts and Humanities Commission. The commission serves in an official advisory role to the City Council on all matters related to the arts and humanities which promote, coordinate and strengthen public programs to further cultural development of the city.

Board of Elections. This five- to seven-member board plans and conducts City elections.

Committee on the Environment. This committee is charged with advising the City Council on all environmental issues, including but not limited to tree protection, open space conservation, biodiversity, watershed functioning, energy use and conservation, and recycling; reviewing and providing advice on City actions that affect environmental quality; educating Takoma Park residents, businesses, and government on environmental issues; conveying citizen views on environmental issues to Council and City staff; and working with City staff on environmental issues and projects.

Emergency Preparedness Committee. The committee was established to provide community input to and assist in the City's planning and preparations for emergency operations and to involve

residents in providing appropriate assistance during emergency operations. Applicants should have some professional background in emergency preparedness or operations and be available to perform committee duties during the day when required.

Ethics Commission. This seven-member commission is charged with overseeing the implementation of and adherence to the City's Ethics Ordinance.

Facade Advisory Board. This seven-member board provides design and historic advisory assistance for building and business owners located in the commercial areas of Takoma Park and provides recommendations regarding permit applications to the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission.

Health Services Impact Committee. The 12-15 member committee serves in an advisory role to the City Council on matters related to the health care needs of the Takoma Park community and on the potential impact of the relocation of Washington Adventist Hospital. Persons interested in the issue of health care services, including Takoma Park senior citizens and persons with special health care needs; persons who may have difficulties in accessing health care services due to transportation, language or income constraints; and persons with expertise in the field of health care services or public health are invited to apply.

Walking City Council Meeting Scheduled for Ward 4

Councilmember Terry Seamens invites residents to join the Takoma Park City Council on its Ward 4 Walking City Council Meeting. The walk will take place on Saturday, May 5 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Residents and the City Council will gather at 10:30 a.m. at 149 Ritchie Avenue. The walk will begin promptly at 11 a.m. Participants will proceed down Ritchie Avenue and turn left at Geneva Avenue. There will be a stop at Joshua Group Ministries. The walk will proceed from Joshua Group Ministries back to Ritchie Avenue, and continue down Ritchie to Maple Avenue, turning left toward the Franklin Apartments (7620 Maple Avenue). Walkers will stop at the Franklin Apartments and then continue toward the Community Center, ending at Piney Branch Elementary School (7510 Maple Avenue).

The Council looks forward to seeing first-hand the issues being faced by the community and having the opportunity to discuss issues and concerns that Ward 4 residents would like to have addressed. Residents are encouraged to meet the Council at any point along the route and come along for the walk. For additional information, contact the City Clerk's Office (301-891-7267).

Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee. This committee serves in an advisory role to the City Council on matters related to the existence and expansion of the Takoma Park Campus of Montgomery College.

Noise Control Board. The five- to seven-member board advises the City Council on noise issues and adjudicates two-party noise disturbance complaints.

Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee. The seven-member committee is responsible for overseeing the implementation of and adherence to the Nuclear-Free Zone Act.

Personnel Appeal Board. This five-member board is a statutory committee which is responsible for hearing employee appeals and complaints.

Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee. The 12-member committee is charged with providing input and advice to the Council and the City's public safety agencies about how the City can better meet the ongoing needs and concerns of residents in the area of police services and public safety.

Safe Roadways Committee. The up to 11-member Safe Roadways Committee advises the City on transportation-related issues including, but not limited to pedestrian and bicycle safety, traffic, and transit services.

For more information, contact the City Clerk at 301-891-7267 or JessieC@takomagov.org.

Takoma Park Goes to Annapolis

An Insider's Look at Lobbying the State

BY SUZANNE LUDLOW
COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT LIAISON

Whenever I am asked what I do in my job, I focus on my responsibility as a lobbyist on behalf of the City to the State Legislature and other governmental bodies. In the Washington area, people generally know what lobbyists do, and although I have many other responsibilities within the city, for the past decade each January through March has found me caught up in the legislative action in Annapolis. Now that the Maryland General Assembly's 2007 Session has come to an end, I've been asked to share a bit about what happens in Annapolis and what I do.

A PRIMER

The Maryland General Assembly meets from early January to mid-April. Each Legislative District in the state has one senator and three delegates. The Montgomery County Delegation consists of representatives of the districts that comprise Montgomery County. State legislation that only affects Montgomery County is discussed in the county delegation first (usually starting in September), before being forwarded to the Senate and House for action. Similarly, Montgomery County and Prince George's County cooperate on legislation that only affects the two counties—usually bills about WSSC and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Legislation approved in the local delegations is generally approved without question by the Legislature at large.

In early September, the City Council sends its requests for local legislation to the Montgomery County Delegation. I write up ideas for submission, provide additional information as needed, and arrange for Councilmembers

to speak in favor of the bills during Delegation hearings held in Rockville in the fall.

Once the Session begins, the City works through its District 20 representatives to craft or support statewide bills that would benefit Takoma Park and to identify the impact on Takoma Park of bills that others have proposed. I monitor the bills via the General Assembly website, District 20 representatives, Montgomery County officials, various organizations, and our residents. I prepare written position statements on proposed bills; arrange for Councilmembers to testify, or testify myself, on bills of particular importance to Takoma Park; and keep the City Council notified about the status of key legislation.

Although legislators may ask me to provide background information, real influence on the issues comes from the voices of our Councilmembers and residents.

Most lobbyists live in Annapolis during the Session, but my many responsibilities in the city keep me here most days, and on the road to Annapolis two or three days a week. If I anticipate needing to go to the State Capital, I try to wear nicer work clothes to the office and keep my meeting schedule light. Otherwise, phone and email keep me on top of things.

The Takoma Park-Silver Spring area is in District 20, represented by Senator Jamie Raskin and Delegates Sheila Hixson, Tom Hucker and Heather Mizeur. For many years, three of the four District 20 representatives were high-ranking senior legislators: Senator Ida Ruben, and Delegates Peter Franchot and Sheila Hixson. For the 2007-2010 Sessions, Delegate Hixson, chair of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, remains on the team, but the others are new members.

WORKING THE TERRITORY

In past years, it was harder for a part-time lobbyist, and certainly a regular citizen, to keep on top of things in Annapolis. But the General Assembly website we have today is easy to use, and email keeps me in touch with legislators and staff. The new District 20 team has been terrific to work with. Although as new members, they and their staffs faced a learning curve at the beginning of the Session — just getting settled in the new offices took time — all three had significant experience working with elected bodies, so transition was relatively smooth. Each of the new legislators was successful in passing important legislation (see box).

I was fortunate to already know Jamie Raskin, Tom Hucker and Heather Mizeur before their elections, so introductions were easy. As I met their staff, I was pleased to see that they are quick learners and very helpful.

A typical day during the Session for me begins by accessing the General Assembly website to check the status of legislation of interest to the City and to see whether public hearing dates have been set. Most public hearings on bills are scheduled for 1 p.m., but any written testimony or position statements must be submitted by late morning. Around 10 a.m., I leave for Annapolis with my testimony and as few additional items as possible, to minimize problems going through security at the House or Senate office buildings.

Once through the nightmare that is parking in Annapolis, I drop off testimony at the appropriate committee

STATEHOUSE REPORT
continues on page 10



Suzanne Ludlow, community and government liaison for the city, stands with Sheila Hixson, one of the city's state representatives, during a visit Hixson made to the city's dance studio in the Community Center. Ludlow is well-known to state legislators for the time she spends testifying on state legislation that affects Takoma Park.

Photo by Debra Haiduven



HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THE 2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 2007 Session featured a new Governor; many new legislators (including three-fourths of the District 20 team); budget worries; environmental goals; and discussions on the death penalty, affordable housing, and health care.

Successful freshmen

Each of the new District 20 representatives were successful in getting bills passed that were important to them, including the Living Wage Bill (Tom Hucker), the National Popular Vote Bill (Jamie Raskin), and a bill to allow children to remain covered by their parents' health insurance until the age of 25 (Heather Mizeur).

Budget worries

As Delegate Sheila Hixson said, "The bottom line is—there was no money." Nearly every request for programs that required new funding was turned down, including ones for popular issues such as affordable housing. The "structural deficit" that will hit the State in the coming year must still be addressed. Legislators may be called into Special Session later this year to work on restructuring the State's finances.

Bond Bill requests

Most bond bill requests were also turned down, including Takoma Park's request for funding for a new gymnasium. (A "bond bill" is a type of State grant for capital projects.) Montgomery County legislators focused the small amount of funding available on projects that serve a large or County-wide population. Projects that were successful included funding for the new Birchmere Music Hall and services for developmentally disabled persons. Projects that had received State funds in the past were generally not funded this year.

Major bills passed

The clean cars bill, the clean indoor air act (regulating smoking statewide), significant funds for school construction, living wage bill.

Major bills not passed

Abolition of the death penalty in Maryland, health care reform.

Bills advocated by Takoma Park that passed

- Regulations to provide timely information to tenants during condominium conversion
- Increased payment to municipalities for police services (although not as much as desired)
- Permission for municipalities to purchase and maintain street lights

Bills advocated by Takoma Park that did not pass

- Abolition of the death penalty
- Permission for municipalities to aggregate electric energy
- Funding for the gymnasium
- Removing mercury switches from cars

For information on the legislative agenda of the City of Takoma Park, contact Suzanne Ludlow, Community and Government Liaison, 301-891-7229 or SuzanneL@takomagov.org.



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

Editor: Virginia Myers
Production: Electronic Ink
www.takomaparkmd.gov
Vol. 46, no. 7



The Takoma Park Newsletter is published 11 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, www.takomaparkmd.gov.

The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified, or political advertisements. Unsolicited materials by Takoma Park residents, including reports by community groups and articles that may contain opinion, will be considered for publication. Name, address, and telephone number must accompany all submitted material.

Pursuant to City Council Resolution No. 1992-36 of June 8, 1992 that sets forth the editorial guidelines of the Newsletter, the Editor reserves

the right to edit all submitted copy for length, clarity, style, spelling, and grammar.

Published material containing opinions does not necessarily reflect the views of the Newsletter or the City of Takoma Park.

The City of Takoma Park is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, or national origin, sex, age, marital status, or physical or mental disabilities that are unrelated in nature and extent to job performance. The Newsletter is printed on recycled-content paper.

City Honored for Excellence In Financial Reporting

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada recently recognized Takoma Park with its Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. The prize lauds the city's Compre-

hensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006.

The City's CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which demand a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate the government's financial story and motivate interested

parties to read the report. "This award is directly attributable to the efforts of Director of Finance Yovonda Brooks and her staff in preparing the CAFR, and is a reflection of the work they do throughout the year," said City Manager Barbara Matthews, who has taken a special interest in financial disclosure since she came to the city in

2004. Matthews also won this award as a city manager in other jurisdictions, before she began her work in Takoma Park.

The City's CAFR for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006 can be viewed on the City's website, www.takomaparkmd.gov/finance/budget.html.



COLTA's CORNER

Landlord-Tenant Case Heard Payton v. Reden Management

On April 12, 2007 COLTA issued a decision in a case involving a former tenant's request that her security deposit plus applicable interest and any penalty allowed under the city's Landlord-Tenant Law be returned to her. COLTA's decision held that (1) the landlord did not comply with Section 8-203(g) of the Real Property Article of the Maryland Code which required that the landlord send to the last known address of the Tenant within 45 days of the tenancy's termination a written list of damages claimed together with a statement of the cost actually incurred; (2) the landlord's failure to provide the tenant with a written list of damages claimed and a statement of the costs incurred resulted in the landlord's forfeiture of its right to withhold any portion of the tenant's security deposit; (3) the landlord withheld the tenant's entire security deposit without reasonable basis and the award of punitive damages was deemed appropriate in this case. The ten-

ant was awarded \$2,057.46 which includes \$685.82 for reimbursement of the tenant's security deposit and accrued interest wrongfully withheld, and \$1,371.64 in punitive damages.

— Mose A. Wilds, Jr.

Capital Improvement/ Hardship Petitions

The Commission on Landlord Tenant Affairs (COLTA) recently approved three capital improvement petitions and one hardship petition for rental properties in Takoma Park. They appear in order of their petition numbers:

7600 Maple Avenue (2006-56H)

On March 27, 2007, a hardship petition was approved for a 10.2 percent rent increase. The increases range from \$64.33 to \$118.26 on the 189 units at the property.

8203 Houston Court (2007-6L)

On April 2, 2007, a capital improvement petition was approved for a rent increase of \$80.83 on one unit at the property. The im-

provements included new ceiling, carpentry, kitchen counter and floors, new range, refrigerator and awning.

7106-7108 Maple Avenue (2007-8L)

On April 2, 2007, a capital improvement petition was approved for a rent increase of \$6.14 on three units at the property. The improvements included painting the metal roof.

8313 Eastridge Avenue (2007-9L)

On April 6, 2007, a capital improvement petition was approved for rent increases ranging from \$5.99 to \$44.47 on four units at the property. The improvements included replacing floor boards, air conditioners, blinds and painting.

For capital improvement petitions, the increases are in addition to the annual Rent Stabilization Allowance in effect at the time the increases are taken. The rent increases granted on hardship petitions already include the Rent Stabilization Allowance.

— Jean Kerr

New Rent Stabilization Allowance Established

By JEAN KERR,
HOUSING SPECIALIST

On March 27, 2006, the City of Takoma Park announced the proposed 2.1 percent Rent Stabilization Allowance. The allowance was established in accordance with Section 6.20.020 of the Takoma Park Code and applies to landlords owning two or more rental units (whether apartments, single family houses or condominiums).

There was a 30-day comment period whereby Housing and Community Development was accepting written comments regarding the calculation of the Rent Stabilization Allowance. No comments were received. Therefore, the Rent Stabilization Allowance of 2.1 percent is approved and becomes effective July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008.

Please Note: The Takoma Park City Council is considering changes to the rent stabilization law that may alter the Rent Stabilization Allowance. However, until the Council adopts the new law, the 2.1 percent Rent Stabilization Allowance remains in effect.



HOUSING Mailbox

By MOSES A. WILDS, JR.
LANDLORD-TENANT COORDINATOR

A prospective purchaser of a six-unit rental property wants to know if the seller is required to provide information about the building prior to her purchase.

In response to concerns expressed by some purchasers of city rental facilities that they were not informed about city housing laws and requirements when they purchased, the Takoma Park City Council recently enacted City Ordinance 2007-8 (Mandatory Notice Requirements for Contract of Sale of a Rental Facility). This ordinance, which became effective on April 9, 2007, requires that on or before entering into a contract for the sale of a rental facility, the prospective purchaser must be provided with the following information:

1. A notice of city rental housing laws including: Tenant Opportunity to Purchase (Chapter 6.32), Rent Stabilization (Chapter 6.20), Rental Housing Licenses (Chapter 6.08) and Landlord-Tenant (Chapter 6.16);
2. Copies of the annual rent reports for the rental facility for the previous two years. If the rental facility is exempt from the city's Rent Stabilization Law a Certificate of Exemption must be attached to the contract of sale;
3. Copies of all rental licensing inspection reports of the rental facility for the previous two years.

Both the seller and prospective purchaser are required to sign and date a written acknowledgment (Notice) that these documents have been delivered and received. This Notice must be attached to or included in the contract for sale.

The ordinance requirements do not apply to the following rental facility transactions:

1. A sheriff's sale, tax sale, deed in lieu of foreclosure or sale by foreclosure, partition or by court appointed trustee;
2. A transfer of the rental facility by a fiduciary as part of the administration of a decedent's estate, guardianship, conservatorship or trust;
3. A transfer of the rental facility or any interest therein, to a spouse, former spouse, domestic partner, former domestic partner, parent, sibling, child or grandchild; or
4. A transfer of a single-family rental facility to a purchaser who indicates in the sales contract that the property will not be used for rental purposes.

Tenants or landlords having questions regarding the city's Landlord-Tenant Law are requested to call 301-891-7215 and or contact me via the web at Moses.W@takomaGov.org.

First Time Home Buyer Class

Saturday, May 19, 2007
8:30am - 1:30pm
7500 Maple Avenue

- The Importance of Pre-Purchase Counseling
- Establishing and Maintaining Credit
- Understanding the Credit Scoring System
- How to Get a Mortgage Loan

No Cost!

Pre-Registration is Recommended



**For further information please contact
Linda Walker at 301-891-7222**

Sponsored by the City of Takoma Park
Refreshments will be served.

Sligo Residents Weigh in on Commercial Development

BY SUSAN HOLLIDAY

Residents of Takoma Park's New Hampshire Gardens, Hillwood Manor, and South of Sligo Creek neighborhoods trickle into a meeting at the Takoma Park Recreation Center one weekday evening. Have they come to talk about the gym? Crime? Property taxes? No, they're drawn by the prospect of influencing Takoma Park's Master Plan implementation for the Sligo Creek Parkway and New Hampshire Avenue commercial district.

That commercial area, like most scattered around Takoma Park, is small. Three diverse businesses — a dentist, a cell phone store and a Jamaican patty wholesaler — operate at the southwest corner of the intersection. A parcel of vacant land just south of the developed property, now owned by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, prompts visions of neighborhood business possibilities in the minds of City planners and residents.

Master plan recommendations for the area are relatively brief. One is to apply the proposed Commercial Revitalization Overlay Zone (CROZ) to the area, a zoning application to foster economic vitality and attractive community character, enhance the pedestrian environment, and combine residential and commercial uses. Other recommendations get more specific about

each land parcel. The land owned by WSSC is zoned for office space with the possibility of ground-floor retail. The commercial site along Sligo Creek Parkway is zoned for small-scale commercial.

The master plan also suggests:

- Sidewalk and trees along New Hampshire Avenue
- Unified landscaping and integrated parking and circulation between area properties
- Direct pedestrian access to the fronts of all buildings

All of which dovetail neatly with ideas area residents come up with at their meeting, but we're getting ahead of ourselves.

To start, City Planners Ilona Blanchard and David Suls present a slide-show of the master plan recommendations to the dozen or so participants. They explain public land-use concepts - a kind of an urban planner's guide for dummies - to give residents new ways to think about the site. Pedestrian-friendly sidewalks allow people to walk at least two-across; street walls provide a sense of enclosure. Parking lots can be designed for alternative uses, such as farmers' markets or block parties. Crime prevention through environmental design includes zero tolerance for trash, graffiti and deteriorating buildings and infrastructure. "The lack of care for public areas invites crime,"

How You Can Get Involved

All neighborhoods are invited to an Open House on Monday, May 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. WHERE to view all ideas generated at the workshops and comment on staff evaluation and recommendations.

explains Blanchard. Heads nod in agreement around the room.

Then while it's still light outside, Blanchard leads residents on a walking tour of the site, just two blocks south of where they're meeting. New Hampshire Avenue traffic zips by the narrow sidewalk where they walk with barely room for two abreast.

On site the residents chat about the area's features using the planning concepts they just learned. They note the big swath of black-top pavement along the Sligo Creek Parkway commercial property, with the parking lot blending into the street and no sidewalks or landscape buffer. They spot the tidy plantings maintained by one of the businesses, then stroll around to the vacant WSSC lot. Like any prospective developer, they look beyond the piles of broken concrete, trash and dirt to the site's possibilities, gesturing about heights, setbacks and run-off, talking loudly to be heard over the din

of passing cars.

Back at the Rec Center, over slices of pizza, the group gets down to the meat and potatoes of the workshop. City staffers hand each participant five yellow sticky notes and instruct them to jot down five small-scale improvements they'd like to see in the commercial area. By small scale, Blanchard clarifies, "think \$25,000 instead of \$25 million." The City has restricted jurisdiction at the site, with the Maryland State Highway Administration and the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission holding many of the reins, but the City can work with them on projects.

The question on everyone's mind: Can we suggest particular businesses we'd love to see in the area? What residents are looking for is always helpful to developers, answers Blanchard, but City influence is limited. The Takoma Park Housing and Community Development Office is actively marketing the site and showcases the WSSC lots to interested businesses. "It's one of the few commercial areas in Takoma Park that has an obvious commercial site waiting to be developed," says Blanchard.

When they're finished writing, Blanchard asks each person to pick their favorite idea to share aloud. Residents find a lot of agreement on what needs to be done. When all

MASTER PLAN

continues on page 11

Root Rot Fells Trees in Storm

BY TODD BOLTON
TAKOMA PARK ARBORIST

Takoma Park is lucky. No one was hurt and property damage was relatively minor when eight trees fell during April's vicious wind storm. But that storm was an important reminder that the Tree Protection Plan, part of the city's Tree Ordinance, is vital.

Two of the felled trees were in Circle Woods, the other six on private property. It's those six that shared one fatal characteristic: They had root rot. They failed because at some time in the past something, or someone, damaged their roots.

Three of the trees, all oaks more than 24 inches thick, grew within five feet of houses or other structures. The largest, a 30-inch red oak, had only one solid six-inch root; the rest of the roots and the butt were rotten wood without structural value. Another of the trees had no healthy roots on one side, where a slab had been poured for a garden shed: Removing six to ten inches of soil and compacting the remainder had killed but not disconnected the roots. Such dead roots rot, and their fungi can easily cross from dead root into living root, right up into the trunk of the tree.

Most tree roots — 95 percent — are within 18 inches of the soil surface, where soil is loose and allows space for the air and moisture roots need to keep the tree healthy. When soils are compacted, whether by foot traffic or heavy equipment, roots starve and rot begins.

Trees have some defenses against rot, but their defenses weaken over time and the rot will move throughout the root system and even up into the tree. Crown dieback or mushrooms sprouting near the base of the tree are indicators that roots are rotting, but



these are not always present, and without this evidence there is no reason to suspect that the tree is unhealthy. The best practice is to avoid harming the roots.

If you are planning any construction, the city arborist must approve tree protection during construction. For more information, consult the city's Tree Protection Plan at <http://takomaparkmd.gov/publicworks/arborist/> or call Takoma Park Arborist Todd Bolton at 301-891-7612.

Rebates for Clean Energy

BY KEA WOODRUFF
COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Did you know that the percentage of greenhouse gases emitted by burning fossil fuels for electricity is greater than the percentage contributed by automobiles? By



ARBOR DAY ACTION

At the city's annual Arbor Day celebration last month, Takoma Park gave away 450 free trees and nine saplings as well as plenty of information for veteran tree-huggers and new nature lovers alike. Seven different organizations, including Takoma Old Town Business Association, shown here, staffed information booths on the Library lawn as part of the celebration. Shown with the banner are, from left, Sabooh Hikim, regional state forester; Mayor Kathy Porter; and City Arborist Todd Bolton.

switching to clean energy, you can decrease the amount of electricity generated from fossil fuels and help reduce pollution.

Montgomery County has implemented a Clean Energy Rewards program that offers a rebate to individuals and businesses who switch to clean. You can choose a new electricity supplier, and make a 50 to 100 percent switch to clean energy. Or, if you

do not want to change suppliers, or if you don't pay your electricity directly because it is bundled into your rent or lease, you can purchase Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) to offset your electricity consumption. RECs support local wind and solar energy suppliers.

KEEP IT GREEN

continues on page 11

R E C R E A T I O N

MAY ACTIVITIES

HEALTH SEMINARS

The Takoma Park Recreation Department in partnership with Amerigroup Community Care will be offering the first of a three-part class offering: Healthy Womens' Health Chat, Well Woman Check-ups, and Breast and Cervical Cancer information. Body Mass Index and Weight Screening will also be available.

When: Wed., May 9
Location: Hydrangea Room, T.P. Com. Ctr.
Time: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Fee: Free, pre-registration is required

YOUTH MARBLE TOURNAMENT

Ages 7 - 14

The Takoma Park Recreation Department is once again holding a Marble Tournament to qualify youth between the ages of 7 - 14 for the National Marble Tournament held in Wildwood New Jersey the week of June 17, 2007. All participants must preregister for this tournament by Friday, May 18. There will be two separate tournaments, boys and girls.

When: Sat., May 19
Time: Boys 10 a.m., Girls 1 p.m.
Location: Jequie Park
 (Takoma and Albany Avenues)
Fee: Free

CHOOSING THE RIGHT DOG FOR YOUR FAMILY

Are all breeds alike? Should I buy or adopt? Get a puppy or an adult dog, big dog or small? What's a "responsible breeder" and why do shelters ask so many questions? A fun seminar of options and answers.

When: Thurs., May 3
Time: 7:30 - 9 p.m.
Location: Auditorium, T. P. Com. Ctr.
Fee: T. P. Res. \$15
 Non- Res. \$20

TREMENDOUS TRIPS

Grades 1 - 5 (as of September '07)

Looking for something exciting to start your summer break? Each day offers a different experience. Sign up for one trip or pre-register for them all and get a discount. Minimum enrollment must be met.

When: Mon. - Fri., June 18 - June 22
 (Pending the last day of school)
Time: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Location: T.P. Com. Ctr.
Fee: T.P. Res. \$20/trip
 Non-Res. \$25/trip
Register for the whole week:
 T.P. Res. \$90
 Non-Res. \$115

TEEN PROGRAM OPEN HOUSE

Friday, June 1, 2007, 6 - 10 p.m.

Teens 12 through 18 years of age are invited to tour the game room and T-zone (teen lounge). Enjoy fun activities, playstation, food, music and prizes! You will have an opportunity to meet the teen program staff, and get acquainted with the program offerings and activities available to the teens of Takoma Park. Registration is not required to attend.

For additional information, contact Karla Kelley, Recreation Manager, 301-891-7283.

FUN DAY PROGRAM 2007

Grades K - 5

Participants will meet at the Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Students attending Takoma Park Elementary will be picked up from the tot lot, and children attending Piney Branch Elementary will be picked up in the cafeteria by a Recreation staff member. Bring a snack! Trip is subject to change. Space is limited, sign up early.

When: June 14 (or last day of school)
Time: 1 - 6 p.m.
Location: MLK Outdoor Water Park
Fee: T.P. Res. \$10
 Non-Res. \$15



Racing toward discovery

It was ready, set, go at the annual egg hunt at Ed Wilhelm Field on March 31. Sponsored by the Recreation Department, the hunt drew a crowd of about 200 eager children and doting parents bundled up against the chill of early spring. Their reward: the wonder of discovering brightly colored plastic eggs to collect in their various bags and baskets, and the prizes hiding inside.

Photos by Debra Haiduven



RECREATION

GET ORGANIZED!



THE ORGANIZED FAMILY

This seminar will focus on strategies to help your home run smoothly. The topics covered include: meal planning, organization strategies for your entry way, ways to contain toys, scheduling that works and many more. A handbook on organizing your family is included in the cost of the class.

Instructor for organization classes: Anne Busse

When: Wed., May 2
Time: 7:30-9 p.m.
Location: Hydrangea Room, T.P. Com. Ctr.,
Fee: T.P. Res. \$40
Non Res. \$45

CLUTTER CONTROL
Come learn tips and tactics for every room in your home as well as your office. If you're comfortable sharing, bring photos and/or questions relating to the challenges you face in getting your clutter under control.

When: Tues., May 15
Time: 7:30-9 p.m.
Location: Hydrangea Room, T.P. Com. Ctr.
Fee: T.P. Res. \$40
Non Res. \$45

TOTAL COMPUTER ORGANIZATION
This class will teach you how to manage e-mail, maintain a schedule and task list electronically and set up an effective filing system for your electronic documents and photos. Make the most of your computer so you can be more productive and efficient.

When: Wed., May 30
Time: 7:30-9 p.m.
Location: Hydrangea Room, T.P. Com. Ctr.
Fee: T.P. Res. \$40
Non Res. \$45

CREATIVE ADVENTURES

Grades 1 - 5 (as of September '07)
Don't sit around all summer wishing you had something to do! Join us on a new adventure each week with plenty of opportunities to discover arts and crafts, games, swimming, nature activities, special events, and trips to various fun locations.

When: Mon. - Fri., June 25 - August 10
Time: Before Care: 7 - 9 a.m.
(Additional fee)
Camp hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
After Care: 4 - 6 p.m.
(Additional fee)
Location: T.P. Com. Ctr.
Fees weeks 1, 3 - 7: T.P. Res. \$110/week
Non-Res. \$125/week

Fee week 2: T.P. Res. \$95/week
Non-Res. \$110/week

Special offer!
Get week #2 FREE if enrolling for all seven weeks

EXTREME HORIZONS

Grades 6 - 8 (as of September '07)
If you are looking for an all-around great time this summer, here it is. Try your hand at rock climbing, horseback riding, mountain biking, and swimming. Learn yo-yo tricks, express yourself through art. Each week we'll have a trip to a theme park. Fee includes

a camp t-shirt, all field trips and special events. No camp July 4. Maximum 13.

When: Mon. - Fri., June 25 - August 10
Time: Before Care: 7 - 9 a.m.
(Additional fee)
Camp hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
After Care: 4 - 6 p.m. (Additional fee)
Location: T.P. Com. Ctr.
Fees weeks 1, 3 - 7: T.P. Res. \$180/week
Non-Res. \$200/week
Fee week 2: T.P. Res. \$165/week
Non-Res. \$185/week

EXTENDED CARE OPTIONS 2007
Extended care is available for those families who require or desire additional activities beyond the regular camp hours. Activities include games, outdoor play, and sports. Campers in the following camps may enroll in the extended care program: Creative Adventures, Extreme Horizons, Takoma Park Babe Ruth Baseball/Soft ball Camp, Basketball and Soccer Camps.

Fee per week for Before Care, 7 - 9 a.m. T.P. Res. \$30
Non-Res. \$40
Fee per week for After Care, 4 - 6 p.m. T.P. Res. \$30
Non-Res. \$40

TAKOMA PARK COMMUNITY CENTER • MAY HOURS

Game Room
Monday through Thursday
2:30 - 5:30 p.m., Ages 7-12
6-9 p.m., Ages 13-19
Fridays until 9:30 p.m. and Saturday
12:30 - 5:30 p.m., Ages 7-19
Sunday, 2 - 5:30 p.m., Ages 7-19

TZone (Teen Lounge)
Monday through Thursday, 2:30 - 9 p.m.
Fridays until 9:30 p.m.
Saturday 12:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 2 - 5:30 p.m.
Ages 13 - 19

Hours subject to change
Membership is required
7500 Maple Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912
301-891-7290

Junior Thunderbolts Baseball Begins

The Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts will hold five week-long baseball camps and four one-day specialty camps this summer. Week-long camps are June 18-22 and June 25-29 at Columbia Park, 14900 Old Columbia Pike, in Burtonsville and July 9-13, July 16-20 and July 23-27 at Nolte Local Park, 220 Denver Avenue, in Silver Spring. They cost \$195. Specialty camps will be at Nolte on July 2 (pitching/fielding, beginner to intermediate), July 3 (hitting/fielding, intermediate to advanced), July 5 (pitching/hitting, intermediate to advanced) and July 6 (hitting/fielding, beginner to intermediate). Specialty camps are limited to 25 players per day. They cost \$100/day. All the camps run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. After care is available for week-long camps (with minimum 20 registrants).

Camp director is Drew Zachry, former coach of the Thunderbolts and former head baseball coach at Paint Branch High School. He will be assisted by Thunderbolts players and coaches.

Thunderbolts camps are for boys and girls ages 8-15 years. Early registration discounts are available and a minimum number of registrations is required for each camp. Information (including the refund policy) and registration forms are available at www.tbolts.org or call 301-270-0198.

These camps are not affiliated with the Takoma Park Recreation Department.



2007 THUNDERBOLTS HOME SCHEDULE

Home games are at
Montgomery Blair Baseball Stadium
51 East University Blvd., Silver Spring, Maryland
(in the Four Corners Area)
Mon-Sat. games start at 7 p.m.
Gates and concession open at 5 p.m.
Sunday DHs start at 5 p.m.
Gates and concession open at 4 p.m.

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT
Friday	6/8	College Park Bombers
Sunday	6/10	Youse's Orioles - DH
Thursday	6/14	Rockville Express
Saturday	6/16	College Park Bombers
Friday	6/22	College Park Bombers
Saturday	6/23	Rockville Express
Tuesday	6/26	Maryland Redbirds
Thursday	6/28	U.S. Military All Stars
Saturday	6/30	College Park Bombers
Monday	7/2	Bethesda Big Train
Friday	7/6	Herndon Braves
Sunday	7/8	Bethesda Big Train - DH
Wednesday	7/11	Maryland Redbirds
Saturday	7/14	Rockville Express
Monday	7/16	Herndon Braves
Thursday	7/19	Youse's Orioles
Friday	7/20	Herndon Braves
Tuesday	7/24	Rockville Express
Thursday	7/26	Maryland Redbirds
Saturday	7/28	Youse's Orioles

The Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts play in the Cal Ripken, Sr. Collegiate Baseball League, a wooden bat league composed of seven teams in the D.C. area. Top college players are recruited to play for the team. Players from outside the area stay with host families in Takoma Park and Silver Spring.

Stand-out Kids' Books Acquired

By KAREN MACPHERSON

There are only a handful of standouts among the thousands of children's books published each year. Two such standouts recently acquired by the library are "A Good Day," a new picture book by Caldecott Medalist Kevin Henkes, and "The Invention of Hugo Cabret," a new novel by author/artist Brian Selznick. Here's a closer look:

Author/artist Kevin Henkes has spent nearly three decades creating children's books, so it's not surprising that he is a master of the picture book. Over the years, Henkes has produced many gems, including the wildly-popular "Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse," "Owen," which won a 1994 Caldecott Honor, and "Kitten's First Full Moon," which was awarded the Caldecott Medal in 2005.

Henkes' newest picture book, "A Good Day," demonstrates that he remains at the top of his form. As in "Kitten's First

Full Moon," Henkes' story in "A Good Day" is simplicity itself, focused on how a day in which everything seems to go wrong suddenly rights itself.

Henkes opens the book by stating "It was a bad day," and then proceeds to show why: a little yellow bird loses his favorite tail feather, a little white dog gets her leash tangled, a little orange fox can't find his mother, and a little brown squirrel drops her nut.

But then, the squirrel finds the biggest nut ever, the fox finds her mother, the dog frees herself from the tangle and the yellow bird flies higher than he ever did before. Henkes then effortlessly pulls together the strands of his story with his conclusion as he shows a young girl picking up the yellow feather dropped by the bird and shouting, "What a good day!"

Henkes' satisfying story is matched by his watercolor illustrations, in a springtime pastel palette anchored by a chocolate brown line. The overall effect creates an intensely pleasurable reading experience for both young readers and their parents, who will find their own moods brightening as they turn the pages. (Ages 2-5)

With his 533-page book "The Invention of Hugo Cabret," author/illustrator Brian Selznick has created a new kind of children's novel, one which uses cinematic technique to

blend nearly 300 full-page illustrations with page-turning text. Both fantasy fans and readers who enjoy graphic novels will embrace this book.

Selznick's story revolves around a boy named Hugo Cabret, who lives in a Paris train station in 1931 and tries to keep the clocks running there so no one will know that his uncle, the station's timekeeper and Hugo's guardian, has died. But Hugo's main focus is on completing the repairs begun by his father on a life-size mechanical wind-up man who can write. Hugo's father died in a fire, but Hugo believes that, if he can complete the repairs, the mechanical man might reveal a secret note from his father.

Before he can finish, however, Hugo is caught stealing parts for the mechanical man from a toy store in the train station. Suddenly his clandestine life is in jeopardy as the toy shop owner's niece insists on befriending him. When Hugo grudgingly decides to join forces with the girl, the two unearth a secret connected with the mechanical man that will forever change their lives.

"The Invention of Hugo Cabret," steeped in French film history, is a rip-roaring good story. But the tale also has great emotional depth, and readers will find themselves thinking about Hugo and his friend Isabelle long after they've finished the last page. (Ages 8-12).



LIBRARY News

By KAREN MACPHERSON
AND ELLEN ROBBINS

Jamestown comes to life

To mark the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, Va., we're hosting local author Karen Lange, who will talk about her new children's book, "1607: A New Look At Jamestown" on Monday, May 14 at 7 p.m.

Filled with eye-catching photographs by Ira Block, Lange's book is published by National Geographic, where she works as a writer. In her critically-acclaimed book, Lange offers an updated look at historic Jamestown, based on archeological findings that came to light only a decade ago. The fast-paced narrative describes how ongoing work at Jamestown has changed the traditional view of the settlement and also gives readers a fascinating view of how the Indians in the area lived before the British arrived. And Lange doesn't shy away from the controversy sparked by the 400th anniversary celebrations, noting:

"For the Indians, Jamestown is nothing to celebrate. To them it meant the end of their ancestors' way of life."

Lange will talk about how she came to write the book and take us behind the scenes at Jamestown, looking both at its founding and how it exists today. Both kids and adults are welcome to join us for this interesting and timely discussion. Please call 301-891-7259 to sign up.

Activity for tiniest "readers"

Bring on the babies! In June, we're launching a new library program just for the youngest readers (and their grown-ups). Our "Lapsit" program is aimed at babies from birth to 1 year, and will consist of a half-hour of songs, fingerplays, rhymes and, of course, books. We'll also play with scarves and do some simple rhythm work with egg shakers.

Like our popular "Twosies" program, the Lapsit program will be offered weekly during one month in each season. And, like the "Twosies," we'll limit the number of participants to 15 babies (plus their grown-ups) as a way of providing more individualized attention. Grown-up participants will be given information on how the Lapsit program is designed to help babies begin developing six key pre-literacy skills, as well as tips to extend the learning at home. But the main point of our new Lapsit program is just to have fun in the library!

For our Lapsit launch, we'll be offering the program each Wednesday in June, from

10-10:30 a.m. We'll begin with a welcoming time, then spend 20 minutes on the "heart" of the program, and end with a five-minute time for questions and discussion. Following best practices for early literacy, we'll have multiple copies of some books, so that all participants can "read" together simultaneously. We'll also use giant-sized books to help keep and capture little ones' attention.

We're excited about offering this new program for the youngest library users! Please call 301-891-7259 if you have any questions or to sign up.

Storytelling Fiesta Approaches

Please join us as the Library celebrates Takoma Park's diversity with a Storytelling Fiesta, Saturday, May 19. Designed for families, our fiesta will begin with multi-cultural crafts at 10 a.m. Then we'll gather at 11 a.m. to listen to acclaimed storyteller Arianna Ross. We will end the fiesta with hand-outs with suggestions for continuing storytime fun at home. We'll even have a drawing for some special items, including a full paperback set of the "Where's Waldo?" books and the complete "Chronicles of Narnia" on CD.

Our "Storytelling Fiesta" is part of a nationwide celebration of diversity at libraries, sponsored by the Association of Library Service to Children, part of the American Library Association. Officially called "El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day)," the celebration is often held

on the last Saturday of April as part of an international "Children's Day" event.

Our "Storytelling Fiesta" marks the library's first effort to take part in the "Día" celebration, but it won't be our last! We hope to make this year's event the first of many over the years that highlight the remarkable mix of people who live in Takoma Park. Please call 301-891-7259 if you have any questions and to sign up for our "Storytelling Fiesta."

Friends Book Sale Returns

The Friends of the Library will hold their semi-annual used book sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Library grounds on Saturday, May 19.

Hundreds of used books in good condition, including many children's books, will be sold at bargain prices.

In the past, the book sales have been a major source of revenue for the Friends, and their proceeds have helped to fund Library furnishings, reading club selections, a new on-line book club, craft materials and many special Library programs such as Summer Quest, the College Bound speakers' series, the Philosophers' Club and a variety of storytelling programs.

Come and discover some new reading adventures while your children attend the special "Día Day" celebration in the Library!

Anyone who wishes to help at the sale should contact Ellen Robbins at the Library 301-891-7258. We will also accept your used books in good condition between now and May 16. They should be of general interest, in boxes, and if there is a large number they must be donated by prior arrangement.

Friends Reading Club Meets

The Friends of the Library Reading Group will meet Wednesday, May 16 at 7:30 p.m. on the third floor of the Takoma Park Community Center to discuss Don DeLillo's novel "White Noise".

"DeLillo is at his dark, hilarious best in this 1985 National Book Award winner, a novel that preceded but anticipated the explosion of the Internet, tabloid television, and the dialed-in, wired-up, endlessly accelerated tenor of the culture we live in. He doesn't just describe life in a hyper mediated society, he re-creates it." (Jan Bultmann)

Copies of "White Noise" are available at the Takoma Park Library, courtesy of the Friends. All are welcome to these informal, stimulating discussions, accompanied by refreshments.

TAKOMA PARK LIBRARY CALENDAR

MAY 2007

Neighborhood Circle Time

Every Tuesday 10 a.m. at the Library.

La Hora de Juego en Espanol

Thursdays, May 3 and 31
10 a.m. at the Library
Spanish Circle Time with Lupe Marks.

Sabado Gigante para Ninos en la Biblioteca!

Saturday, May 12
Spanish story time with Laura Kleinmann.

Mother's Day Crafts

Monday, May 7
7 p.m. at the Library

Kids, come make gifts for mom, grandmom or the other special women in your life! Please call 301-891-7259 to sign up.

Jamestown's 400th Anniversary

Monday, May 14 at the Library
Takoma Park author Karen Lange will discuss her new children's book, "1607: A New Look At Jamestown." Kids ages 8 up will get the most from this event, but all - including adults - are welcome. Please call 301-891-7259 to register.

Friends of the Library Reading Group

Wednesday, May 16
7:30-9 p.m. at the Community Center, third floor
Discussion of "White Noise" by Don DeLillo. All are welcome.

Storytelling Fiesta: A Multicultural Celebration!

Saturday, May 19 at the Library

10 a.m. - noon

Come make crafts and then hear tales told by Arianna Ross. Please call 301-891-7259 to sign up.

Book Sale

Saturday, May 19
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. on the Library lawn.

Bedtime Story Time

Monday, May 21
7 p.m. at the Library
Bring your teddy bears (or other stuffed favorites). Pajamas, pillows and blankets are welcome. Please call 301-891-7259 to sign up.

Police Assistance on the Ground and In the Air

By Detective Andrew John

The blare of police sirens and cruisers "going priority" bring a measure of curiosity and excitement to a neighborhood. Citizens are always curious when police vehicles are on their streets. It also should bring a measure of security to know that the "bad guys" are being chased. Every now and then, however, they get away by running. When a suspect has fled the scene on foot, the police department has several tools to assist in finding and apprehending them: canine and helicopters.

When Canines Hit the Trail

The Takoma Park Police currently have two canine "units," both German Shepherds. We can also request "mutual aid" from other agencies if our dogs are off-duty. These four-legged officers do more than search for contraband: their sense of smell is thousands of times more sensitive than that of humans, and allows them to sniff out fleeing suspects. These versatile dogs also use hearing and sight to track.

The focus of their track is the scent of the last person to leave an area. The canine's ability can be hindered by such factors as weather, foot traffic and pure exhaustion. The longer the canine tracks a suspect, the harder to differentiate the smell he is seeking. Hot weather can cause exhaustion to set in more quickly and rain, of course, makes a track difficult. Foot traffic by curious onlookers can confuse the canine, which is why officers set up a perimeter around a crime scene as quickly as possible.

When canine is not able to locate a suspect or if reinforcement is needed, the Department can call upon helicopter assistance from several police departments, such as the Park Service, State Police or county. The air unit will use altitude and sophisticated infrared technology for tracking. The heat of a hiding or fleeing suspect will be picked up by its vision technology.

When the Helicopter Is Overhead

Despite the helicopter's advanced technology, its abilities are limited and capture of a suspect isn't guaranteed. Sometimes the image it picks up may not be the suspect but someone standing in a yard or anything else emitting heat from the ground. Of course, the air unit officers can differentiate between a roaming pet and a human, but sometimes the "bad guy" just gets lucky.



If you notice a lot of police activity in your neighborhood, you can call the Communications Office to find out what is happening. Unless you actually see someone fleeing, we recommend that you call after things calm down.

During these exciting and busy times, the Communications Center is swamped and the stress level for the dispatcher skyrockets. The dispatcher on duty, usually alone, has to keep track of everything going on. She monitors the officers and canine track information, runs computer searches, and relays with the helicopter, entering all this into a log. A barrage of inquiry calls can hinder the work, although informational calls to assist are welcome.

You can help the police by not stepping outdoors to ask what is going on until after the incident is over. If you notice a helicopter in the

area, know that it is there for your safety. Coming out to watch the canine work, could interrupt and hinder the track. The same goes if you notice police officers in your backyard. Stay inside. Stay safe.

Help Us Help You

The following are suggestions for how to react if you see police searching your neighborhood, especially when using canine units or helicopter:

- If a canine is at work, stay away. You could hinder his track
- Bring in any pets that may be outside
- For safety, lock all doors and stay in the house with your children.
- At night, turn on any outside lights.
- Do not come outside to ask police what is underway. Concentration is needed when looking for suspects, especially if weapons are involved.
- In you have information that could aid the search (you see someone hiding in the backyard), call immediately at 9-1-1. If an officer is close by and you can safely speak with him/her, pass the information on from the safety of your home.
- If you are walking and want to get to your house, ask the nearest officer if you may pass; if assent is given, do so without additional questions.
- Once the helicopter and units have gone, check the Police Bulletins on the city Webpage (www.cityoftakomapark.org) for information. Officers will post information as soon as possible after the immediate search is complete. If necessary, information may be given by the dispatcher.

Burglaries, Thefts Take an Outdoor Turn in Spring

Azaleas may be the sure sign of spring for city residents, but for Takoma Park Police the telltale signs are stolen lawn mowers and bikes. Recent police reports will show spring is here.

It may not be possible to eliminate theft of property entirely. Theft can be deterred by securing portable items like lawn mowers, bicycles, baby strollers and hand tools. Most burglars seek a quick opportunity to obtain valuables in the easiest possible way. A bike or lawn mower left in a driveway or stored, unsecured, under a porch are easy targets.

Residents need to take precautions to safeguard their own property:

- Bikes should be locked securely when not in use. Residents should register their bikes at the police department.
- Lawn equipment and tools should be stored securely. Consider chaining them, even in a locked garage or shed.
- Garage and shed doors should have locks and the lock should be used.
- Close and lock windows and doors.
- Keep a record of all valuables.

Report Suspicious Behavior

When you see a stranger pushing a lawn mower down the sidewalk or loading one into a car, call the police. A legitimate workman will understand. In one case, the subject reported did own the lawn mower, but was wanted on a warrant for other charges.

Suspicious behavior that's gone unreported and resulted in crimes, includes: strangers walking around residential homes and back yards in the middle of day or at night, someone removing a complete stereo system from a car parked on a busy street at noon; and people walking about a residential street without cause or purpose. These are just a few examples. However, if you see anything that raises your suspicion, Call 301-270-1100 to report suspicious behavior.

Buckle up for your safety

May is the second month of the Maryland Chief's Challenge. This is a statewide initiative when police officers strictly enforce the use of seatbelts and child safety restraints. The Takoma Park Police are actively participating in this initiative to keep our drivers safe. Buckle up every time you drive, and protect your children, too.



Firehouse REPORT

As of March 31, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the Takoma Park station responded to 241 fire-related incidents. The department handled or assisted with 680 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 921 incidents this year. Totals for 2006 were 254 and 620 respectively, for a total of 874, representing an increase of 47 incidents.

Lighting Up More Than Your Smokes

Did you know that smoking materials are the leading cause of fatal home fires? Encourage smokers to smoke outside. Deep, sturdy ashtrays are best. Don't let ashtrays become so full that hot ashes might spill over the side. Before going to sleep or leaving home, especially if people have been drinking alcohol and smoking, check your furniture for cigarette butts. A cigarette that falls into up-

holstery can smolder for hours before bursting into flame. Never smoke in bed or when you are drowsy, intoxicated, or medicated. Keep matches and lighters up high, out of the reach of small children, and buy only lighters that have a child-resistant safety feature.

Prevent Arson and Other Set Fires

The majority of intentionally set fires are started by troubled young people, sometimes as a desperate and misguided cry for help. Schools, communities, police, and fire departments can work together to provide professional help to young people who might start fires. Take any evidence of fires set by children seriously. If a child under your care is involved, calmly, but firmly, explain that this dangerous behavior must stop immediately. If the fire-starting behavior persists, seek professional help through your fire department or from a mental-health professional. Do not hesitate to report a neigh-

borhood child who starts fires to his or her parents or to authorities.

Elevators

Never use an elevator during a fire, unless instructed to do so by emergency personnel. Heat and smoke could kill you if the elevator stops at a floor where the fire has spread, and a power failure caused by the fire could trap you in the elevator.

NFPA's four basic defenses against fire in the home

1. Keeping fire out of your home
2. Installing early-warning systems to alert your household to a fire in time to escape safely
3. Having an escape plan that can save your life in a fire
4. Forming fire-safe habits and knowing how to respond to fire emergencies

STATEHOUSE REPORT

continued from page 3

staff offices and, if necessary, sign up either a Councilmember or myself to testify. If I expect to be in Annapolis most of the day, I bring along a sandwich to eat before the hearings begin. I check in at each of the District 20 offices, give legislative aides copies of the testimony, and ask for updates and information on issues I need to know about. Sometimes I'm able to speak briefly with the Senator or Delegate directly, but I try not to take up much of his or her time.

WAITING TO BE HEARD

The new expanded and remodeled House Senate office building hearing rooms are usually big enough for the audience, and incorporate technology to record the meetings for viewing on the Internet. The state has not yet worked out the heating and air conditioning system, however, and often the rooms get very hot. Waiting for several hours while others testify is tedious. I usually bring along reports or other work from the office to make use of the time while waiting for the bill Takoma Park is concerned with.

When it's my turn to testify, I've found that it is best to be brief and describe how the legislation would

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS:

Senator Jamie Raskin

301-858-3634 jamie.raskin@senate.state.md.us

Delegate Sheila Hixson

301-858-3469 sheila.hixson@house.state.md.us

Delegate Tom Hucker

301-858-3474 tom.hucker@house.state.md.us

Delegate Heather Mizeur

301-858-3493 heather.mizeur@house.state.md.us

General Assembly website: mlis.state.md.us

During the "Interim," the time when the Legislature is not in Session, it sometimes takes a few days for a representative or staffperson to return calls or e-mails. But they want to hear from you. Senator Raskin speaks of being "always very excited" to meet with people on legislative matters, and Delegate Hixson says "people stimulate me." The interim period is the perfect time to invite a District 20 representative to a meeting or event to get to know them and share your concerns.

affect residents in Takoma Park, giving an interesting example or fact. I try to be prepared to answer the questions committee members might ask. Often, I follow up the next day with additional information that was requested.

Once back in Takoma Park, I draft testimony for future public hearings or inform the Council of any new issues, and catch up on non-legislative work waiting for me at my desk.

The coming year will be very chal-

lenging for the legislators, all of whom impress me as bright, thoughtful and responsive. The State's structural deficit will need to be addressed, and work on that must begin before the Session starts in January. In my part-time way, I'll be checking in with the District 20 representatives and communicating with the City Council to help make sure any potential impacts on Takoma Park are identified and addressed.



POETRY PLANT

Ann Slayton, who was instrumental in organizing the "planting" of 36 poems all around Takoma Park, poses near a seasonal favorite at Spring Park: "Chansons Innocentes!" by e.e. cummings. The project placed poems mounted like street signs in public places such as parks, schools, pedestrian thoroughfares, commercial areas and other community spots. Sponsored by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library, signs were designed by students at Montgomery College, and installed by Public Works. For a complete list of poems and locations, see www.ftpml.org or pick one up at the Library.

THE CRIME REPORT

This blotter is not intended to be inclusive of all crime and arrests reported to the Takoma Park Police Department.

By: DETECTIVE A/LT. T. COLLINGTON

Robberies

On March 17 at 5:18 p.m. in the 1300 block of Holton Lane, a commercial strong armed robbery was attempted. A subject entered the business, jumped over a counter and entered an enclosed employee area through an unlocked door. The subject demanded money from the lone employee who immediately ran to an office area in the back of the store without giving the subject anything. The subject fled on foot. The victim was not injured.

Burglaries

On April 4, time unknown, in the 600 block of Houston Ave., a residential burglary occurred. It is unknown how entry to the apartment was gained. Property was taken.

Auto and Related Theft

On March 24, between 7 and 7:30 p.m. in the 7600 block of Carroll Ave., a 1998 Jeep Cherokee was stolen by unknown means.

On March 24, between 6:15 and 10:30 p.m. in the 7300 block of New Hampshire Ave., a 2002 Dodge Intrepid was stolen by unknown means.

On March 24, between 7 and 7:30 p.m. in the 76 block of Carroll Ave., an auto theft was attempted. The ignition of the 2005 Jeep Liberty was damaged.

On March 28, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. in the 7300 block of New Hamp-

shire Ave., a 2002 Ford Crown Victoria was stolen by unknown means.

Between March 30 at 9 p.m. and March 31 at 5:30 a.m. in the 7900 block of Wildwood Drive, a 1996 Honda Civic was stolen by unknown means.

On March 31, between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the 9500 block of East West Highway, a 1995 Toyota 4Runner was stolen by unknown means.

Between April 4 at 7 p.m. and April 5 at 9:40 a.m. in the 8300 block of Roanoke Ave., four vehicles were vandalized. A window in each vehicle, a 1995 Honda Accord, a 1996 Honda Civic and two 2000 Honda Civics was damaged.

Arrests

On March 17 at 4:05 p.m. in the 1100 block of University Blvd., a juvenile male was arrested and charged with theft under \$5 (shoplifting).

On March 20 at 1:01 p.m. in the 7500 block of Maple Ave., an adult male was arrested on an open Montgomery County warrant for a violation of a court order (failure to pay court costs and fines).

On March 24 at 1:40 p.m. in the 7600 block of New Hampshire Ave., two adult males were arrested and charged with trespassing, disorderly conduct and failure to obey a reasonable lawful order.

On March 24 at 10:05 a.m. in the 600 block of Houston Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with second degree assault after police responded to a report of a domestic assault.

On March 24 at 1:22 p.m. in the 7600 block of New Hampshire Ave., an adult female was arrested and charged with second degree assault (on a police officer), resisting arrest, failure to obey a reasonable lawful order and disorderly conduct.

On March 26 at 1:17 a.m. in the 8200 block of Flower Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with driving while impaired by alcohol, driving under the influence of alcohol and several traffic related charges.

On March 27 at 1:50 a.m. in at the intersection of Holly and Tulip Aves., a juvenile female was arrested and charged with possession of CDS.

On March 27 at 1:30 a.m. in the 6400 block of 5th Ave., an adult male was arrested on an open warrant for failure to appear in court on a charge of possession of CDS paraphernalia.

On March 27 at 10:24 p.m. in the 7600 block of Maple Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with possession of CDS and disorderly conduct.

March 28 at 1:09 p.m. in the 86 block of Flower Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with drinking in public.

On March 29 at 3:02 p.m. in the 69 block of Laurel Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, driving while impaired by alcohol and driving with a suspended license.

On March 31 at 8:45 p.m. in the 7600

block of New Hampshire Ave., a male juvenile was arrested and charged with first degree assault.

On March 30 at 8:44 p.m. in the 7300 block of New Hampshire Ave., a male juvenile was arrested and charged with fourth degree burglary and destruction of property.

On April 2 at 10:28 a.m. in the 7500 block of Maple Ave., an adult female was arrested on an open warrant for failure to appear in court on charges of driving an uninsured vehicle and driving on a suspended license.

On April 3 at 4:15 p.m. in the 7300 block of Jackson Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with possession of CDS, possession of CDS paraphernalia and possession of CDS with intent to distribute.

On April 5 at 2:30 a.m. in the 7700 block of Maple Ave., an adult male was arrested and charged with violation of a Protective Order.

On April 5 at 2:12 a.m. in the 7700 block of Maple Ave., an adult and an adult female were arrested and charged with possession of CDS paraphernalia.

On April 6 at 9:58 p.m. in the 8600 block of Flower Ave., an adult male was arrested on an open warrant charging him with second degree assault and false imprisonment for an incident that occurred in the 8600 block of Flower Ave. on March 23.

MASTER PLAN

continued from page 5

have had their say, Blanchard hands out four red dot stickers and asks participants to place them next to their top priority ideas.

The ideas that received the most support that evening:

- Plant trees along New Hampshire Avenue and Sligo Creek Parkway, including the median.
- Create stormwater retention/management strategies for paved areas near Sligo Creek (rain gardens and retention wall as well as limited entrance to businesses).
- Design a sound-absorbing streetscape on New Hampshire Avenue, with more trees and a buffer space between the street and sidewalks, and add more sidewalks.
- Install a visual gateway or signage; include a MNCPPC trail map.

Despite Blanchard's statement about the City's limited influence, the participants also enthusiastically voice their opinions on the types of businesses they'd like to see on the vacant lots. The hands-down winner, initially proposed by Merwood Drive resident Chris Victoria, is a small neighborhood pub, where residents could gather to socialize. Other suggestions include a café

and carry-out, a bike shop and rental, and a hardware store.

Contacted later for opinions about the effectiveness of the workshop, Eileen Sobeck of Carroll Avenue "liked that the City was really trying to get people to think outside the box . . . to come up with a wish list." Catherine Tunis of Larch Avenue says the process showed consensus, "that a lot of us had the same ideas." Given jurisdictional restrictions, Sobeck says she is curious to see what happens. "The proof is in the pudding," Tunis concludes.

After gathering ideas from this and similar workshops held at commercial areas around the City, the Housing and Community Development staffers will "evaluate all the proposals to identify what's possible," says Blanchard. Staffers will schedule a City-wide community meeting to present their findings and discuss more specifics and opportunities for funding the projects. Two business districts, the Takoma/Langley Crossroads and the Ethan Allen Gateway, already have received funding from the MNCPPC and others for intensive studies and redevelopment reviews.

KEEP IT GREEN

continued from page 5

Montgomery County offers two clean energy suppliers and three REC marketers to choose from. Residents will get a one-cent rebate per kilowatt-hour of clean energy and businesses will get 1.5 cents per kilowatt-hour for switching, credited as a reduction in your electricity bill or a discount on the price you pay for an REC.

Clean energy is slightly more expensive because the technology is new and demand is growing. The Clean Energy Rewards program helps offset this added expense for those who want to reduce their impact on the environment.

Choosing to support clean energy now helps make the technology more affordable and available in the future.

To learn more or sign up, see <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cleanenergyrewards>.

If you use solar panels to generate clean electricity on-site, you are also eligible for rewards. For information and an application form, see the website.

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb Recycling Now Available

By DARYL BRAITHWAITE
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Compact fluorescent light bulbs, the darlings of the green movement, may save energy, but they contain mercury, and cannot be thrown away in the trash once they've burned out.

Takoma Park now offers a drop-off for recycling compact fluorescent light bulbs or CFLs. You can leave your burned out CFLs at the Public Works Facility, 31 Oswego Avenue between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., or use the drop-off box adjacent to the front door of the building after hours and weekends.

Compact fluorescent lights require less

energy to operate than incandescent bulbs. However, each CFL bulb contains about 4 mg of mercury. If the bulb remains intact and is recycled, that mercury can be collected and reused. If the bulb is broken, the mercury can be released into the environment.

The use of CFLs in lighting actually reduces the amount of mercury potentially coming into the environment. A CFL uses 75 percent less energy to operate than an incandescent bulb and lasts six times longer. A power plant will emit 10 mg of mercury to produce the electricity to power an incandescent bulb for five years compared to 2.4 mg to run a CFL for the same amount of time (according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).

While the CFLs used in your home are not legally considered hazardous waste, it is best to dispose of them through a recycling operation rather than throwing them in the trash, especially when trash is incinerated as it is in Montgomery County. The City has partnered with USA Light's, a local Beltsville company, for this program.

There is currently no charge to drop off a CFL for recycling at the Public Works Facility. As the program develops, the City may consider requesting a small payment to offset the cost of the program, depending upon participation by the community.

If you break a CFL, the EPA recommends that you open a nearby window to disperse any vapor, sweep up the fragments and wipe the area with a disposable paper towel to remove glass fragments. Do not use a vacuum cleaner. Place all fragments and used paper towel in a sealed plastic bag. The broken bulb can be taken to the recycling drop-off provided the plastic bag is intact and sealed.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 301-891-7633.

City TV Carries Community Hospital Forum Live

In the wake of news that Washington Adventist Hospital will move to White Oak (see story, page 1), you can expect lively community reaction – and it will all be captured, live, by City TV. At the Health Services Impact Committee meeting scheduled for May 1 residents have the opportunity to speak with Jere Stocks, president of the hospital, and to weigh in on what kind of health care they want in the neighborhood. Stocks is considering what kind of services might be made available at the original WAH site. If you can't make the meeting yourself, tune in May 1, 7 to 9 p.m., or later in the month when the show is re-aired.

Other live programming this month includes the Azalea Awards, a community-building program sponsored by the Takoma Foundation, on May 12; and the YES League basketball championship. You can also see Jazz Band Brawl performances, footage from Tastes of Takoma, and a new batch of musicians from the Folk Festival.

Be sure to visit City TV's award-winning webpage at www.TakomaParkMD.gov/cable for specific program information each month.

Takoma Snapshots will feature the following episodes:

- Community Oriented Policing: Shots Fired
- Art Enables Exhibit
- Tastes of Takoma Highlights
- Adventist Community Service Day

Community and neighborhood groups may submit non-commercial notices regarding meetings or special events to City TV for inclusion on the bulletin board.

All Council meetings and Snapshots episodes are also available for patron check out at the Takoma Park Maryland Library. VHS Tapes of these shows, as well as other Takoma Park City TV events, may be purchased for \$15 (pick up) or \$18 (mail). Some programs are also available on DVD. Call 301-891-7118 or send an email to: cabletv@takomagov.org for more information.



Cable Committee Representative Needed

The City is looking for a Takoma Park resident to serve on the Montgomery County Cable Communications Advisory Committee. Representative is required to attend one monthly meeting in Rockville. Some experience and interest in cable television, telecommunications or local government would be preferred. Please send a letter of interest to: Lonni Moffet, Communications Director, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912; call: 301-891-7236; or email to: LonniM@takomagov.org

PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE - MAY 2007

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7:00 AM	Community Bulletin Board	The Road to Recovery	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Community Bulletin Board	Takoma Snapshots	Community Bulletin Board	Community Bulletin Board
8:00 AM	Takoma Park Snapshots	PreSchool Power!		Takoma Park Snapshots	Community Bulletin Board	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park Snapshots
9:00 AM	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park Snapshots	National Gallery of Art	Coffeehouse	NASA Programming		Haiti a Suvre
10:00 AM		Coffeehouse	City Council Meeting (REPLAY)	Music da camera	Government Focus	Takoma Park Snapshots	Coffeehouse
11:00 AM	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	CarbNation		Takoma Park Folk Festival	National Gallery of Art	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Media Watch on Hunger
NOON		Community Bulletin Board			City Council Meeting (REPLAY)		
1:00 PM	The Road to Recovery	Takoma Park City TV Local Events		Takoma Park City TV Local Events			Takoma Park Folk Festival
2:00 PM	Media Watch on Hunger		Takoma Park Folk Festival			Media Watch on Hunger	
3:00 PM	Takoma Park Snapshots	NASA Programming		Music da camera			Takoma Park City TV Local Events
4:00 PM	PreSchool Power!		Takoma Park Snapshots	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Haiti a Suvre	
5:00 PM	Music da camera	Takoma Park Snapshots	Government Focus	Haiti a Suvre		Takoma Snapshots	
5:30 PM	Chinese News						
6:00 PM		Community Bulletin Board	Chinese News	Community Bulletin Board	Takoma Park Snapshots	Community Bulletin Board	Community Bulletin Board
7:00 PM		National Gallery of Art		Takoma Park Snapshots	Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Snapshots
7:30 PM	City Council Meeting						
8:00 PM		Coffeehouse	City Council Meeting (REPLAY)	Takoma Park Folk Festival		Takoma Park City TV Local Events	Takoma Park Folk Festival
9:00 PM		Takoma Park City TV Local Events			Takoma Park Folk Festival		
10:00 PM				Haiti a Suvre		Haiti a Suvre	Coffeehouse
11:00 PM		CarbNation		Takoma Park City TV Special Events	Coffeehouse	Takoma Park Folk Festival	Takoma Park City TV Local Events
12:00 Midnight	Takoma Park Snapshots	NASA Programming	Takoma Park Snapshots		Haiti a Suvre		
1:00 AM	Road to Recovery		Community Bulletin Board				

HOSPITAL MOVE

continued from page 1

At the same time they plan for the new facility, hospital officials intend to work with Takoma Park residents and officials to consider alternate uses for their current campus; one distinct possibility is the retention of some health care services there. The hospital has also promised to continue to invest in the current hospital, to maintain quality care during the early stages of transition, according to hospital officials. "We are committed to the populations we serve, to the primary service area that we now care for and to the communities that have been our home for 100 years," said Jere Stocks, President of Washington Adventist Hospital. "We take a great deal of pride that our hospital has served this community from our current location for 100 years. Our vision builds on this legacy of service, and positions our hospital to serve our communities for the next 100 years, and to provide superior care for all of our patients."

HEALTH SERVICES IMPACT COMMITTEE MEETING Public encouraged to attend

May 1, 7-9 p.m.
Council Chambers,
Community Center

Tell us – and Washington
Adventist – what you need

Help shape the future of health
care in Takoma Park

More info: Venita Enola George,
301-891-7266.

Expect plenty of community input as the hospital prepares for its move. The process is likely to proceed slowly, with various county and state approvals still pending and plans for design, engineering and construction in their earliest stages. The hospital will use this time to meet with city officials and residents both in the White Oak area and Takoma Park, to talk about health care needs.

Most notably, Stocks will attend a May 1 Takoma Park meeting of the Health Services Impact Committee intended to assess resident need for health care (see box). The advisory committee will use the meeting to gather information about where and how frequently residents receive services, other hospital services they may use (such as workshops and seminars), impact on relocating the hospital and other concerns.

While the committee meeting was set up before AHC's recent announcement, when some still hoped the hospital would stay in town, it is clear now that the bulk of the operation is moving out, whether residents like it or not. "When the hospital was first built in Takoma Park, it was surrounded by undeveloped land," Stocks said. "Today, Montgomery and Prince George's counties are first and second in terms of population in Maryland. Times have changed, and for our patients and our communities, Washington Adventist Hospital must change, as well."

CITY BUDGET

continued from page 1

vices provided by the city. A new county task force, which includes Matthews, will be reviewing the method by which tax duplication payments are determined. The hope is that, going forward, the city will get the payments it deserves and that reflect the City's actual costs for delivering duplicative services.

City charges for services, licenses, investment earnings, and fines and forfeitures provide the balance at 9 percent of revenue funds.

A trio of funds

The bulk of spending – 94.5 percent -- is attributable to the General Fund, which includes most city business -- police protection, snow removal, trash pickup and the like -- as well as insurance coverage, debt service, and capital outlay. Total revenues for the General Fund are \$18.07 million; expenditures are \$19.41 million. The difference is made up by the use of reserve monies accumulated due to higher than expected revenues and expenditures coming in under budget, monies previously set aside for replacement of city vehicles and equipment, and the sale of city property.

The proposed General Fund budget reflects a \$1.5 million increase in expenditures compared to the current year. A large portion of this amount (\$826,000) is due to personnel-related costs. These costs include a 3.5 percent market adjustment in pay, an increased base contribution rate for the state retirement plan, and a 20 percent increase in health care costs.

Some changes in staffing are also reflected in Matthews' proposed budget: three part-time custodial positions in Public Works could shift to one full-time and one part-time position; shared, part-time staffing of the Community Center reception desk could change to one full-time position, and a new crime analyst is proposed for the Police Department. Chief Ron Ricucci has recommended the hiring of a crime analyst to facilitate the sharing of information between the Takoma Park Police Department and other law enforcement agencies; the hiring of a crime analyst would also enhance the department's ability to provide information to City residents. The Recreation Department could also get a 35-hour per week coordinator for its before- and after-school programs.

Separate from the General Fund is the Stormwater Management Fund. Revenue comes from stormwater management fees, which remain the same since last year. Total revenue here is \$365,000, total expenditures about the same.

The city receives a variety of federal, state, and county grants. The Special Revenue Fund is used to account for activity related to these grants, which include Community Development Block Grants, Program Open Space monies, and homeland security funds. FY08 projects include the CSAFE interjurisdictional law enforcement effort, intersection improvements to enhance the safety of children coming to and from school, streetscape improvements on Holton Lane, and park improvements at Jackson-Boyd and Jeque Parks.

Spending Highlights

In addition to the personnel costs and staffing changes, other proposed expenditures include several that fit the Council's development priorities: completion of a charrette, or planning session, for the Ethan Allen Gate-

FY 08 Budget General Fund

Revenues by Type

TOTAL = \$18,071,044



FY 08 Budget General Fund

Expenditures By Department

TOTAL = \$19,411,809



FY 08 Budget General Fund

Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)

TOTAL = 151.36



way into the city (\$30,000); similar charrettes for other areas of the city (\$100,000) and marketing of the New Hampshire Avenue corridor (\$41,000). There are also infrastructure improvements to enhance pedestrian safety (\$100,000), light replacement in Takoma Junction (\$95,000), commercial center improvements (\$65,000), and continued support for the Main Street Initiative (\$25,000).

In Public Works, design of a new facility is proposed (\$75,000), along with increased funding for tree pruning (\$30,000) to extend the life of the trees.

For the police department, in addition to the new crime analyst, \$107,706 is included for the take-home police car program. The goal of the program is to help the City retain employees and to help the Police Department

recruit new officers. The funding included in Matthews' proposed budget is for the lease payments on the existing 15 vehicles, plus the five to be acquired in FY08.

Next steps

The City Council will hold a public hearing on May 7 to gather input from the community on the new budget. Council meetings throughout May will lead up to a finalized budget during June; the new fiscal year begins on July 1. To share your thoughts on the budget, come to the budget hearing May 7, 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Community Center.

For more detailed information on the budget, see <http://takomaparkmd.gov/finance/fy08/proposed/index.html>.